

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

25X1

SUBJECT Rocket-Launchers with Mortar Regiments

DATE DISTR.

19 March 1954

NO. OF PAGES

2

25X1 DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO.

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

1. Rocket-launchers have been observed with the following mortar regiments:

581st Mortar Regiment of the 20th Guards Mechanized Division
 265th Guards Mortar Regiment of the 8th Guards Mechanized Division
 240th Guards Mortar Regiment of the 6th Guards Mechanized Division
 299th Guards Mortar Regiment of the 10th Guards Mechanized Division,
 U/1 Mortar Regiment of the 25th Guards Tank Division.

It should also be noted that there are indications that rocket-launchers are assigned to the 234th Guards Mortar Regiment of the 9th Guards Tank Division, the 226th Guards Mortar Regiment of the 12th Guards Tank Division and the mortar regiments of the CGF in Austria. There can no longer be any doubt that rocket-launchers are assigned to all mortar regiments.

2. Observations made to date have indicated that three model M-13 rocket-launchers are assigned to a mortar regiment, one rocket-launcher being assigned to each of the three mortar battalions. These rocket-launchers are part of the organic equipment of the mortar regiments and are not attached for training purposes only.
3. Further details of the assignment of rocket-launchers to mortar regiments are not available. Assumptions previously made that rocket-launchers were also assigned to tank regiments have proved unfounded.
4. The assignment of one rocket-launcher to each of the mortar battalions in a mortar regiment may have been made for one of the following reasons:
 - a. Concentration of fire - both the 120 mm. mortar and M-13 rocket-launcher have their greatest effect at ranges between 4,000 and 5,000 meters.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	ARMY	EV	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
-------	------	----	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X", Field Distribution By "#")

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

- 2 -

 25X1

- b. Concealment of mortar positions - mobile rocket-launchers firing from different distant positions would shield simultaneous mortar fire.
- c. Training of gun crews to handle both types of weapons make possible a rapid rotation of men between these two branches of Soviet artillery. This assumption appears to be partially supported by the assignment of 76 mm. guns to howitzer batteries of the 6th Artillery Division and the assignment of 122 mm. howitzers to the heavy howitzer brigade of the same division. It may be, however, that these assignments were made to facilitate close support or anti-tank defense.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY